

Ms Kezia Dugdale
The Scottish Parliament
M1.07
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Date 30 January 2019

Your Ref

Our Ref TPD/CW/GS

Enquiries to Tim Davison

Extension 35807

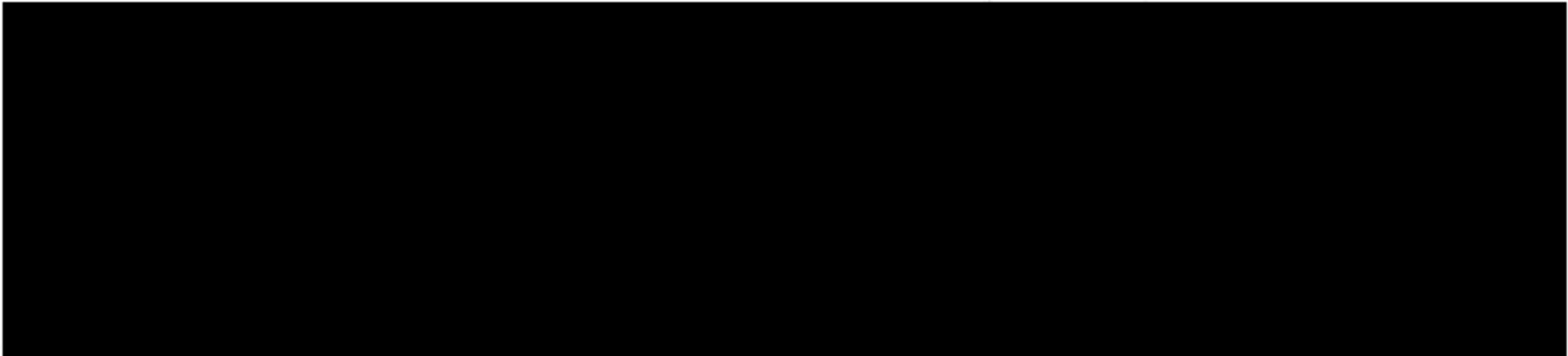
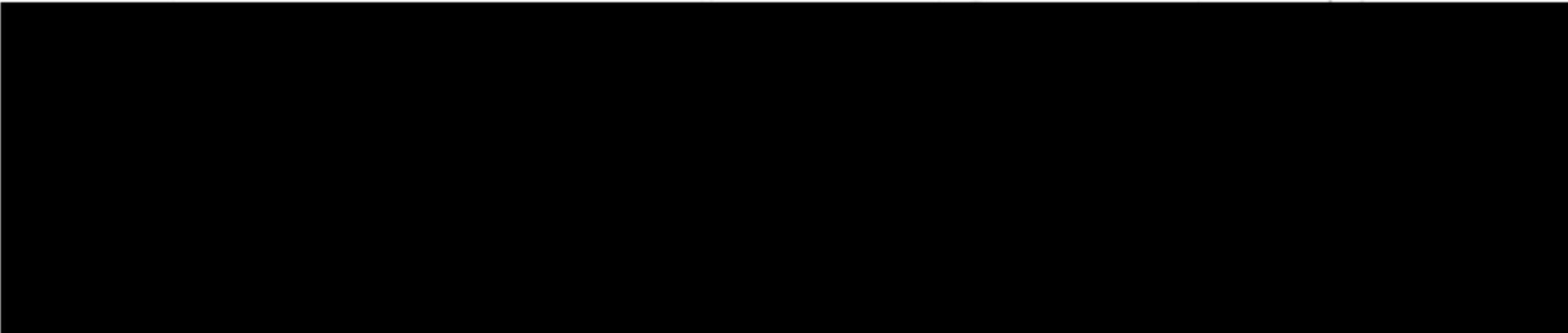
Direct Line 0131 465 5807

Email chief.executive@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

EA elaine.watters@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Ms Dugdale

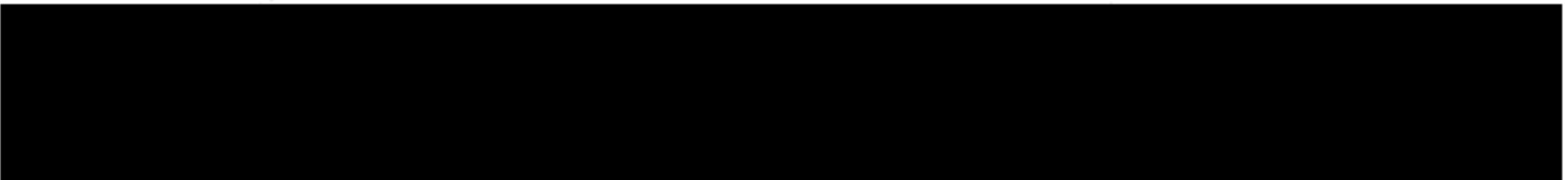
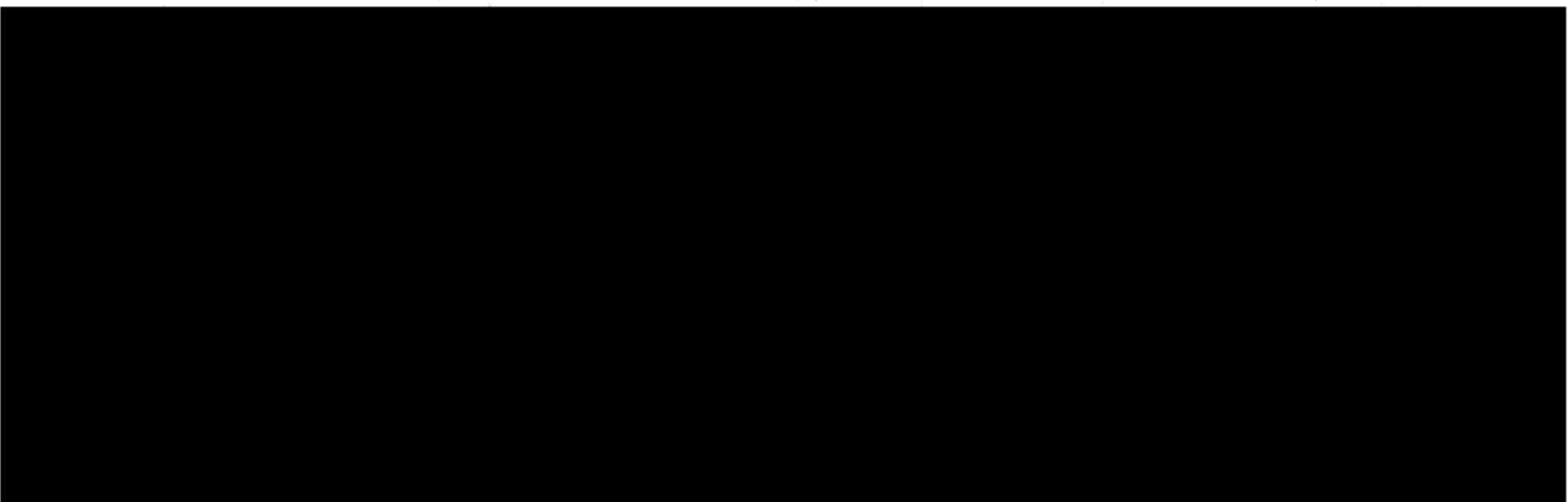
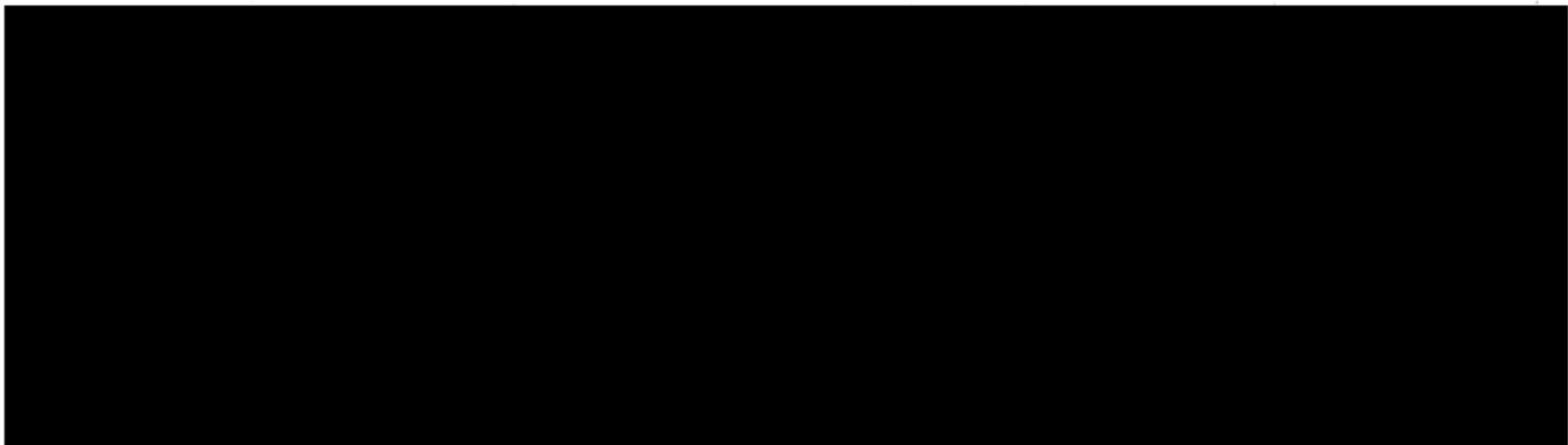
Thank you for your letter of 17 January 2019.



This morning in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE), there are 93 patients in the hospital who would be better off, not in hospital, but in their own home or in a homely place and who cannot get there for many reasons - because of lack of more appropriate



heath care placement, a lack of Nursing or care home places, difficulty in accessing a required package of care to enable a return home, delays while waiting for necessary equipment or home modifications, delays in accessing social work, or delays in securing guardianship. For a hospital the size of the RIE, the number of patients remaining in hospital when they do not need to be there, is equivalent to three whole wards and is significantly impacting on our ability to manage the flow of patients through the hospital. It can impact on our ability to see and assess patients promptly; it delays access to a bed quickly within the agreed 4 hour target; it is contributing to short-notice cancellation of planned elective surgery resulting in disruption and distress to patients and families. All of this presents a burden on patients and their carers/ families and reduces the quality of their experience.





[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Davison".

TIM DAVISON
Chief Executive

